



April 4, 2005

Three charged in cocaine conspiracy; allegedly provided security for shipments of purported cocaine

In federal complaints lodged in Providence, **Robert A. Nardolillo**, of Providence, **Clifford T. Falla**, of Wolfboro, New Hampshire, and **Anthony Gobbi**, of Boston, have been charged with conspiracy to traffic in cocaine for allegedly providing security for two shipments of purported cocaine in 2001.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente, Kenneth W. Kaiser, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Colonel Steven M. Pare, Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police, and Colonel Dean Esserman, Chief of the Providence Police Department, jointly announced the complaints, which were filed on March 30 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

Teams of **FBI** agents, **Rhode Island State Police**, **Providence Police**, **Wolfboro Police**, and **Boston Police** arrested the three defendants on March 31. In U.S. District Court, Providence, Magistrate Judge David L. Martin set \$250,000 surety bond on Nardolillo, 47, of 28 Delmar Road, Providence, and \$300,000 surety bond on Gobbi, 35, of 16 Marion Street, Boston. The U.S. Attorney's Office is appealing the bond, arguing that both defendants should be detained.

Falla, 47, of 42 College Road, Wolfboro, was arrested in Wolfboro and a magistrate judge there ordered him detained and taken to Rhode Island for further proceedings.

According to an FBI affidavit supporting the complaints, on two occasions in 2001, an

undercover FBI agent agreed to pay Nardolillo to provide security for what the agent said were shipments of cocaine.

On April 30, Falla, armed with a gun, allegedly stood guard over a 17-kilogram shipment of purported cocaine in a Providence hotel room while undercover agents periodically removed some of the purported cocaine, supposedly for distribution. Agents observed a car circling the hotel and learned that Gobbi was driving that car and was in telephone contact with Falla. Nardolillo's price for providing the security was allegedly \$8,500.

According to the affidavit, on August 22, Nardolillo, Falla and Gobbi met with undercover agents at a Providence nightclub and arranged to provide security for an 11-kilogram shipment of purported cocaine later that day. Falla, again armed with a gun, allegedly guarded the purported cocaine in a hotel room in Warwick after driving to the hotel with Gobbi.

The complaint charges all three defendants with two counts each of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine, attempting to possess with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine, and possessing a firearm during a drug-trafficking crime. A complaint is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. The charges are felonies and therefore subject to review by a federal grand jury.

The **Federal Bureau of Investigation, Rhode Island State Police, and Providence Police** investigated the case. **Wolfboro Police** and **Boston Police** provided assistance by taking part in the arrests of Falla and Gobbi. Assistant U.S. Attorney James H. Leavey is prosecuting the case.